

COMMENTS

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on January 13, 2005. At the time the Examiner mailed the Office Action claims 1 and 3-29 were pending. By way of the present response the Applicants have: 1) amended claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 17, 25-29; 2) added no new claims; and 3) has not canceled any claims. As such, claims 1 and 3 – 29 remain pending. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application and the allowance of all claims now presented.

The Examiner has maintained rejection of all of the Applicant's claims under 35 USC 102(e) in light of the Widmer reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,496,540) under a different basis of reasoning. See, Examiner's Office Action mailed 1/13/05, pg. 2.

In response the Applicant has amended each of the independent claims to recite a pair of semiconductor chips.

The Applicant believes each of independent claims 1, 8, 17 and 25 are allowable over the Widmer reference and other related references for a number of reasons.

To first order, to the extent Widmer teaches "skew adjustment", the "skew adjustment" of Widmer is located on a receiving side and not a transmitting side (e.g., "[r]eferring to FIGS. 6, 7 and 8, a receiver end 25 is shown at which the transmitted bits are preferably sampled precisely in the center of the eye diagram taking into account significant skew among the several links" Col. 9, lines 58-61).

By contrast, each of the Applicant's independent claims recite skew adjustment at the transmitting side.

Secondly, the Applicant's claims recite skew measurement with a first semiconductor chip and skew adjustment with a second semiconductor chip. These claim elements are manifestly distinguishable from the teachings of U.S. Patent 5,457,718 (hereinafter, "Anderson") which is incorporated by reference by the Widmer patent (See, Col. 10, lines 2-4). Essentially the "data-retiming" circuit taught by Anderson is only suggested as being for implementation on a single semiconductor chip (e.g., "Fig. 1 illustrates a digital circuit for retiming a data input of an integrated circuit chip with respect to a local clock", Col. 3, lines 49-50 of Widmer).

Lastly, the Applicant's claims recite skew between data and clock signals whereas "the Nelson patent" (U.S. Patent No., 5,467,040) that is mentioned (but not formally used as a basis for rejection) by the Examiner (see, Examiner's Office Action mailed 1/13/05, pgs. 1, 2) only teaches skew between clock signals. Therefore the Nelson patent fails to anticipate the Applicant's independent claims.

Because the Applicant has demonstrated the patentability of all pending independent claims, the Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable. The Applicant's silence with respect to the dependent claims should not be construed as an admission by the Applicant that the Applicant is complicit with the Examiner's rejection of these claims. Because the Applicant has

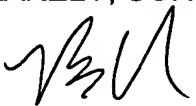
demonstrated the patentability of the independent claims, the Applicant need not substantively address the theories of rejection applied to the dependent claims.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would in any way expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Robert B. O'Rourke at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

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